

New York State Green Procurement Program
Response to Comments on
Packaging Language in Green Procurement Specifications

Background: Multiple comments were received on the packaging language that is included in many of the green purchasing specifications. Since this is not unique to one specification, it is being addressed separately.

Commenting Entities: Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter (SCAC), Clean and Healthy New York (CHNY), and the New York Sustainable Business Council (NYSBC)

Issues raised by the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD) During the Comment Period:

1. The packaging language should include a preference for the elimination of packaging followed by reusable packaging before other environmental attributes

Comments: SCAC, CHNY, and the NYSBC all call for the packaging language to be updated to add a new prioritization for the elimination of packaging, followed by reusable packaging, before other environmental attributes.

Response: The EO4 model packaging language was established as a set of guidelines and not as a hierarchy. This missed the opportunity to help lead the market in a greener direction by letting companies know the State's preference when it comes to the packaging that products it buys come in. Given this, and the increased prevalence of more sustainable packaging methods in the market, it makes sense to update the model packaging language to become a hierarchy.

Recommendation: To update the model packaging language to establish a hierarchy approach that lists a preference for the elimination of packaging first, followed by reusable packaging before other environmental attributes.